

B1 --Fig. 11 is a perspective, partially broken-away and partially schematic view of the structure shown in Fig. 4; and Fig. 12 is a perspective view of the helical separator member of the structure shown in Figs. 4 and 11. --

Page 6, delete line 5, and insert the following therefor:

B2 --long stacks 42 of tickets (See Figure 2).--

Page 7, line 17, after "strip" insert --53--.

Page 8, line 5, change "33" to --31--, and after "slot" insert -- 56--, and insert the following new paragraphs:

line 24, after "blades" insert -- 255--.

Page 9, delete line 1 through line 3, and insert the following therefor: --separator 255 to separate tickets from the ticket strips. --, and add the following new paragraphs thereafter:

--Figure 11 is a perspective schematic view of a separator and drive mechanism which has only two channels instead of four, for the sake of simplification of the drawings.

B4 The set of output rollers 64 includes a separate set of idler rollers 281 for each channel, and a drive roller 283 engaged with the idler rollers. Each of the four sets of idler rollers is mounted on a common shaft 207, and each of the drive rollers 283 is secured to a separate common shaft 205.

Similarly, the set of input rollers 62 includes a set of idlers 287 mounted rotatably on a common shaft, and multiple

separate drive rollers 285 mounted rotatably on a separate common shaft 209. A small spur gear 213 is secured to each roller 285.

A small spur gear 295 is secured at one end to the shaft 205 and meshes with a large spur gear 211 secured to a drive shaft 279 to which each driver roller 283 is secured. Similarly, each of the independent idler rollers 281 rotates freely on a common shaft. Therefore, all of the drive output rollers 283 will rotate when the shaft 279 is rotated.

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A drive motor 277, preferable a stepping motor, is provided and is coupled to the shaft 279. A combination of a large spur gear 297 and an electrically-operated clutch 299 is provided for each channel. Each clutch 299 is separately operable to drivably couple the associated spur gear 297 with the drive shaft 279.

When one of the clutches is so operated, the spur gear 297 drives the small spur gear 213 to rotate one of the rollers 285 for one channel to move the ticket strip 53 (shown in dashed outline) through the device.

The leading edge of each ticket or sequence of tickets is detected by photocell detectors (not shown). When it is determined, by counting the number of steps taken by the motor 277, that the ticket strip is in a proper position for the separation of one or more tickets from the strip, the drive

rollers stop, and a separator drive motor 275 connected through a shaft 289 to the separator or shaft 273 rotates the helical separator member through one revolution and causes one or more tickets to be separated from the strip along a perforated line.

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Figure 12 is a perspective view showing the separator member 273 with two helical blades 255, one for each of the two channels of the separator mechanism shown in Fig. 11. As it is more fully described in the foregoing copending U.S. Patent Applications, each helical blade 255 extends around the shaft 273 and is secured to it so that its edge travels through an angle of 180 degrees. The rotation of the shaft causes the tickets to be torn along a perforated line quickly, neatly and reliably.

When the separation operation has been completed, the drive motor again drives the drive rollers 283 which causes the ticket or tickets to be driven out of the module 38 (Fig. 4).

It is notable that four channels, six channels and even more can be driven with a single drive motor and a single separator motor, thus significantly reducing the complexity, size and cost as compared with prior separator systems. ➤

Page 9, line 9, delete "5 and 6" and insert therefor --
72--.

Page 10, line 12, replace [metal] with --metal--.